

Sally Murek

April 13TH, 2023

RE: Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget

President Glass and the Montgomery County Council Members,

My name is Sally Murek, and I am a paraeducator at Montgomery County Public Schools. In my years of service providing our children with special needs an equal and quality education, I have witnessed how the shortfalls of the county budget affect them. Shortages in staffing and turnover impact these children harder than others. Low wages and staffing shortages prevent us from retaining the talented educators we need to best serve our children. Furthermore, too many of our colleagues cannot afford the rising costs of living in Montgomery County. As a union member with SEIU Local 500, I am thankful for my brethren negotiating for better working conditions. Unfortunately, holding the line means losing more talented educational support professionals to attrition. Reductions in public funding have resulted in depressed wages for many public workers in this county. With rising costs and inflation, our families can afford less and less. As this council debates our county's budget needs, I would ask you to consider County Executive Marc Elrich's proposal to provide revenue enhancements to fully fund our school system. Our children, our school system, and its hard-working educators cannot be asked to shoulder the hardships of this county's budget again and again. This is your chance to provide relief to the many families who serve this county each and every day. I ask you to fully fund all public services in Montgomery County and for your support increasing revenues to support our public schools.

We urge you to pass the necessary property tax measures to ensure the full funding of Montgomery County Public Schools.

Sally Murek

MCPS Paraeducator